

**Regular Board of Education Meeting**  
**Leptondale Elementary School**  
**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**  
**7:00 p.m.**

1. Public Comment – Agenda #1

At 7:01 p.m. the floor was opened for public comment.

- *A resident addressed the Board of education and asked if there are protocols for non-local law enforcement on District grounds, buses and at events.*
  - *Mr. White indicated that there are procedures in place and that non-local law enforcement are not allowed to enter our schools without a judicial warrant. Should said arise at the school, the greeter will not allow the person in and would give the warrant to the Building Principal. The Building Principal will notify and send the warrant to District Office who will in turn contact our attorney. The District will then proceed as advised by our attorneys. Mr. White confirmed that all employees are aware of these protocols.*

2. Call to Order – Agenda #2

At 7:03 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Thomas Frisbie in the Leptondale Elementary All-Purpose Room.

Members Present

Mrs. Anderson  
Mrs. Crowley  
Mr. Frisbie  
Mr. Hecht  
Mrs. McCartney  
Mr. Nafey  
Mr. Olson  
Mr. Palen  
Ms. Lea Martini [Student Board Member]

Members Absent

Mr. Bartolone

Also present were Superintendent White and Assistant Superintendents Devincenzi, and Masopust, and administrators Albanese, Brown, Greany, Hershfield, Hoyt, LaRocco, Napoli, Parete, Redmond, and Salisbury.

3. Amend/Approve Minutes – [11/19/25 Regular Board Meeting] – Agenda #3

Mr. Nafey moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and amend and approve the minutes of the November 19, 2025, (Agenda #6.J.) Regular Board Meeting so as to read:

*Current Minutes: Mr. Bartolone moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and awarded tenure to **Lisa Perry** in the area of Social Studies, effective February 19, 2026.*

*Amended Minutes: Mr. Bartolone moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and awarded tenure to **Lisa Perry** in the area of Social Studies, effective **April 10, 2026.***

Motion seconded by Mrs. McCartney and carried 8 – 0.

4. Approve Minutes – [1/21/26 Regular Board Meeting] – Agenda #4

Mr. Palen moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the minutes of the January 21, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Motion seconded by Mr. Nafey and carried 8 – 0.

5. Board Committee Reports 2025-2026 – Agenda #5

**Audit:**

Mrs. Crowley reported that the Audit Committee met on January 27, 2026. At the meeting the committee reviewed the draft internal audit report which was provided to the Board this evening. There were no findings in the report. Additionally, the committee chose the testing area for the internal auditors to review when they return to the District in March.

**Budget:**

Mr. Devincenzi reported that since the last Board meeting, the roll-over budget was adjusted to reflect four (4) retirements providing savings of approximately \$290,000. Additionally, there are still areas that need to be explored such as final health insurance costs and final BOCES costs. Finally, the District will submit a Tax Levy to be within the cap to the State by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Buildings & Grounds:**

Mr. Frisbie reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee met on February 2, 2026, with Tetra Tech, District architects and engineers as well as our construction manager. At the meeting, the committee discussed Phase III items that are scheduled to be completed this summer as well as reviewing the bidding timeline for this work. Additionally, the committee discussed and reviewed the Building Condition Survey that has been completed by Tetra Tech. This will be submitted to the State by the end of February. Mr. Frisbie also shared that a schedule for Building Walk-Throughs was provided to the Board.

**CDEP:**

Mrs. Anderson reported that the CDEP committee has not met since our last board meeting. The committee is scheduled to meet on February 26, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the high school auditorium.

**Curriculum/TAG:**

Mrs. Anderson reported that the Curriculum/TAG Committee met on February 10, 2026. Mrs. Werlau provided an update on the TAG program, highlighting the District Spelling Bee results and recognizing student achievements across elementary schools and the middle school. She also shared upcoming TAG events, including author's day visits, enrichment days scheduled with George Steele as well as enrichment assessments and activity updates to the Renzulli platform. Lastly, she shared information regarding a TAG student work showcase planned for later this spring. Mrs. Greany presented plans for the introduction of an Agricultural Science elective and FFA student organization at the high school. One section of Agricultural Science will be offered during the 2026–2027 school year. Curriculum development will occur through June 2026, with promotion scheduled during the February Elective Expo. Mr. Murphy reviewed proposed English Language Arts electives for the 2026–2027 school year. He outlined the process used to identify new offerings, including department collaboration and student interest surveys. Proposed courses include Sports Journalism and Music as Poetry, designed to expand elective options and support student engagement and potential postsecondary partnerships. Mr. Masopust shared an update on the current UPK program, noting the operation of both in-house and contracted sections across multiple sites. Instructional practices emphasize play-based learning aligned with NYS Pre-K standards. He reviewed the 2026–2027 UPK timeline, including the application window, lottery process, funding considerations, and the program's dependency on voter approval of the District budget. The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room 102.

- Mr. White indicated that the UPK timeline had been pushed up from where it was the last two years. Thus, to ensure that everyone has the new information Mr. Masopust put together a one-page mass mailing that will be sent out to the District.

**Health & Safety:**

Mr. Nafey reported that the Health and Safety Committee met on February 12, 2026, and began the review of the District-Wide Safety Plan for the 2026-2027 school year. This review will continue over the next few months. The committee also discussed the District exploring additional security options to support the District should an officer not be available full-time on a particular day in a building.

**Legislative:**

Mr. Hecht reported that he, Mr. White, Mr. Devincenzi and Mr. Masopust attended the Ulster County Schools Boards Association meeting on January 29, 2026, where they met with Ulster County legislators. Mr. Hecht also indicated that he and Mr. White have met with all but one of our legislators so far either online or in person and used Mr. White's talking points as a guideline during their discussions such as advocating for a 3% increase in Foundation Aid, extending the waiver for School Resource/Patrol Officers retirees, continuing the State's financial commitment to Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK), and

flexibility with the establishment of reserve funds. Mr. Hecht also mentioned that Assemblymember Maher made a special effort to be part of the meeting with Mr. White and himself via online even though he is currently deployed as a reservist in the United States Navy.

- Mr. White commented that it has been nice talking with our legislators. They have been receptive and they value Wallkill's opinion, which helps us to advocate for the needs of our students. Assemblymember Jacobson asked about Mr. Castle during his meeting today with Mr. White and Mr. Hecht and then told Mr. White that his predecessor would be proud.

#### **Policy:**

Mr. Palen reported that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next committee meeting will be held on March 11, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at District Office.

#### **Technology:**

Mr. Masopust reported that the Technology Committee met on February 9, 2026. Mr. Hein reviewed recent infrastructure improvements, including the transition of the PLTW lab to laptop carts and the deployment of District-Wide analytics licensing for Windows devices. He also provided a comprehensive overview of the District Disaster Recovery Plan, addressing continuity of services, cybersecurity protections, backup and data preservation strategies, governance roles, and emergency response procedures. Additional updates included a review of the incident response plan and recovery equipment, progress on the new Athletics website with a target launch for spring sports, and an update on the AI Circle's work in collaboration with Ulster BOCES to guide responsible, District-Wide AI adoption and professional development. The AI Circle's remaining work will conclude with a coaching session on February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Senior High School, followed by a reflection meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup> and a Celebration of Learning on April 17<sup>th</sup>, both to be held at Ulster BOCES in the Jane Bullova Conference Center. The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in high school room 102.

- Mr. White indicated that Parent-Square was also discussed at the meeting, an informational platform for communication. It is more up to date and would replace SchoolMessenger and Remind as the messaging system with parents/guardians which we would start in the 2026-2027 school year.

#### **Wellness:**

Mr. Olson reported that the Wellness Committee has not met since the last meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in high school room 102.

#### **Student Rep:**

Ms. Martini reported:

- Family ID for Varsity and JV is open for students to register for their spring sports season.
- The library's annual March Madness Chess Tournament will begin on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Our Elective Expo is being held tomorrow, and students in grades 9-11 have an opportunity to learn about our elective and college course offerings.

#### **Clubs:**

- Alumni Day, which was hosted on January 30<sup>th</sup>, was a huge success. Students enjoyed the chance to talk with alumni about their post-secondary experiences and current careers. Thank you to all the alumni who were able to join us.
- Spanish Honor Society will have their annual induction ceremony in March.
- The senior class hosted a Valentine's Day fundraiser from February 9<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>, during which students signed up to have various Valentine's treats, from roses to teddy bears delivered to their friends during free periods on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Athletics:**

- In Indoor Track Sections, a female student-athlete earned Gold in the 3000 and a male student-athlete earned Silver in the 1000 and Silver in the 1600. He also set a new school record in the 1000-meter dash.
- A female student-athlete qualified for the State Gymnastics Tournament in the Balance Beam at the Section IX Championships.
- Nordic Ski had their Sectional Race on February 10<sup>th</sup> at Minnewaska State Park. They had 6 skiers qualify for States.
- Boys Basketball clinched a playoff berth in a win against Minisink Valley. Both the Boys and Girls Basketball teams are looking forward to an exciting playoff run.

- Wallkill Wrestlers competed at the Section IX Wrestling Tournament this past weekend. Several wrestlers placed within the top 6 of their weight class. A student-athlete won the Section Championship, and another student-athlete placed second; both will represent Wallkill in a State Tournament on February 27<sup>th</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Our Cheerleading team will have their Sectional Competition on February 21<sup>st</sup> at Monroe-Woodbury High School.

**Music:**

- The annual S.O.M.E variety show was held February 5<sup>th</sup> at the high school. Students showcased creative acts and various performances to friends, family, and staff.
- Overall, the second semester is off to a great start, and students are looking forward to the great events that are hosted at the high school each spring.

6. **Consent Agenda**

Mrs. McCartney moved items 6A through 6K and 7A through 7F be taken as consent agenda.

Motion seconded by Mr. Nafey and carried 8 – 0.

**Accept Resignations – Non-Instructional – Agenda #6.A.**

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Allen Bailey** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Groundskeeper, effective close of business on February 27, 2026.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Genny Reyes** from the position of Permanent Per Diem Substitute Teacher Aide assigned to Leptondale Elementary School, effective close of business on February 18, 2026, pending her appointment to a Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Stanley Starr** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Night Custodial Worker, effective close of business on January 23, 2026.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation of **Jenny Suarez** from the position of Permanent Per Diem Substitute Teacher Aide assigned to Plattekill Elementary School, effective close of business on February 18, 2026, pending her appointment to a Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide.

**Approve Appointments – Non-Instructional – Agenda #6.B.**

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Sarah DeWitt** to a Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide position, effective February 19, 2026, at a salary of \$16.00 per hour [Step 3 of the CSEA Contract, 5.8 hours per day].

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Kailee Holbert** to a Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Special Education Teacher Aide position, effective February 19, 2026, at a salary of \$17.22 per hour [Step 3 of the CSEA Contract, 5.8 hours per day].

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Genny Reyes** to a Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide position, effective February 19, 2026, at a salary of \$16.00 per hour [Step 3 of the CSEA Contract, 5.8 hours per day].

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Gloria Rivera** to a Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Special Education Teacher Aide position, effective February 19, 2026, at a salary of \$21,490.56 pro-rated [Step 3 of the CSEA Contract, \$17.22 per hour, (6.5 hours per day)].

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 26-Week Probationary appointment of **Jenny Suarez** to a Part-Time [0.97 FTE] Supervisory Teacher Aide position, effective February 19, 2026, at a salary of \$16.00 per hour [Step 3 of the CSEA Contract, 5.8 hours per day].

Accept Retirement – Instructional – Agenda #6.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **Aida DeQuarto** from the Wallkill Central School District [Special Education Teacher], effective close of business on June 30, 2026.

Approve Leave of Absence – Instructional – Agenda #6.D.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following resolution:

RESOLVE THAT, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education hereby approves an unpaid leave of absence for **Samrat Pathania** for the 2026-2027 school year.

Approve Appointment – Mentor – Agenda #6.E.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of the following individual as a mentor for the 2025-2026 school year:

<b>Vicely DeVos</b>	Mentor	\$1,500 pro-rated
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Approve Appointment – Co-Curricular – Agenda #6.F.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the appointment of the following individual to the Co-Curricular position for the 2025-2026 school year.

**HIGH SCHOOL:**

<b>Joseph Pilliteri</b>	Be-YOU-tiful Club Advisor	\$1,414 pro-rated
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Approve Appointments – Coaching – Agenda #6.G.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following appointments for the Spring 2025-2026 school year season:

**HIGH SCHOOL:**

<b>Kylie Detz</b>	Assistant Varsity Softball Coach	Unpaid
<b>Shayna Norton</b>	Assistant Varsity Softball Coach	Unpaid
<b>Michael Dennis</b>	Assistant Varsity Tennis Coach	Unpaid

**MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

<b>Brandon Miller</b>	Assistant Modified Track & Field Coach	Unpaid
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Approve Second Readings – Policy – Agenda #6.H.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the second reading of the following policies:

1. Policy #4250 - Evaluation of the Superintendent
2. Policy #4251 - Evaluation of Administrative Staff
3. Policy #4320 - Assistant Superintendent for Support Services (Business)
4. Policy #4510 - Compensation and Related Benefits

Approve Substitute Lists – Agenda #6.I.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the lists for individuals for teaching and non-teaching substitute positions.

Approve Pre-School Special Education Placements – Agenda #6.J.

The Board approve the placement of Pre-School Special Education students as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.

Approve Special Education Placements – Agenda #6.K.

The Board approve the placement of Special Education students as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.

Approve Use of Facilities – Agenda #7.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School Gymnasium by **UC Takeoff** [for Basketball Practice] as indicated below:

Tuesdays and Thursdays                      March 3, 2026 – June 16, 2026                      7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

*\*Excluding March 31, 2026 & April 13, 2026*

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Plattekill Elementary School Gymnasium by the **Special Olympics New York-Hudson Valley Region** [for practice] as indicated below:

Wednesday    March 25, 2026    6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Mondays - Thursdays                              April 7, 2026 – April 23, 2026\*                              6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

*\*Excluding April 8, 15, 16 & 20, 2026*

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the John G. Borden Middle School fields by **Wallkill Area Youth Soccer/SUFC** [for Practice and Games] as indicated below:

Mondays-Fridays                                      April 1, 2026 – June 12, 2026                                      5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays    April 4, 2026 – June 13, 2026                                      8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the and Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School and Plattekill Elementary School Gymnasiums by **Girls on the Run** [for a Youth Development Program] as indicated below:

**Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School:**

Wednesdays & Fridays                              April 8, 2026 – June 5, 2026\*                                      3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Plattekill Elementary School:**

Mondays & Wednesdays                              April 13, 2026 – June 3, 2026\*                                      3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*\*Excluding May 8 & 25, 2026*

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Senior High School Gymnasium by **Wallkill Varsity Volleyball** [for a Volleyball Clinic] as indicated below:

Wednesdays    April 8, 2026 – June 10, 2026                                      5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Wallkill Senior High School track by the **Special Olympics New York-Hudson Valley Region** [for practice] as indicated below:

Tuesday-Thursday                                      April 21, 2026 – April 23, 2026                                      6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the use of the Senior High School Multi-Purpose Field by **Wallkill Varsity Football** [for a Football Youth Camp] as indicated below:

Sundays    May 3, 2026 – June 7, 2026\*                                      3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*\*Excluding May 10 & 24, 2026*

Accept Treasurer's Report – Agenda #7.B.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education has reviewed and accepts the Treasurer's Reports as of January 31, 2026 and Revenues as of January 31, 2026.

Approve Resolution – Special Education Service Contract – Agenda #7.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the contract for the provision of special education services to District students with the following school stated below. The Board authorizes the Board President to sign the approved contract.

Hawthorne Cedar Knolls U.F.S.D.

Approve Memorandum of Agreements – Wallkill Teachers' Association – Agenda #7.D.

The Board approve the Memorandum of Agreement by and between the Wallkill Central School District and the Wallkill Teachers' Association, dated January 22, 2026, regarding a Seal of Biliteracy Coordinator.

The Board approve the Memorandum of Agreement by and between the Wallkill Central School District and the Wallkill Teachers' Association, dated February 2, 2026, regarding a Superintendent's Conference Day for the 2026-2027 school year.

Approve Resolution – Business Investment Tax Exemption – Agenda #7.E.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Section 485-b of the New York Real Property Tax Law ("RPTL") generally exempts from taxation the assessed valuation attributable to construction, alteration, installation or improvement of real property for commercial, business or industrial purposes (hereinafter "business investment tax exemption"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 485-b[7] of the RPTL, a board of education of a central school district may by resolution reduce or opt out completely of such business investment tax exemption;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Wallkill School District approves opting out completely from the business investment tax exemption permitted under Section 485-b of the RPTL, and further authorizes the Superintendent or his designee to file a copy of such resolution with the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance and with the assessors of each assessing unit comprising the Wallkill Central School District.

Approve Pupil Transportation Contract Extension – Agenda #7.F.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the Extension of Contract for Pupil Transportation with **Orange County Transit, LLC.** for the school years as indicated below. This extension of contract will not become valid and binding until it has been approved by the Commissioner of Education. A copy of the extension shall be attached to the minutes and on file with the District Clerk.

2027-2028 School Year: 2026-2027 rates plus the annual CPI  
[as established by the New York State Education Department]

2028-2029 School Year: 2027-2028 rates plus the annual CPI  
[as established by the New York State Education Department]

2029-2030 School Year: 2028-2029 rates plus the annual CPI  
[as established by the New York State Education Department]

2030-2031 School Year: 2029-2030 rates plus the annual CPI  
[as established by the New York State Education Department]

2031-2032 School Year: 2030-2031 rates plus the annual CPI  
[as established by the New York State Education Department]

7. Close Meeting – Agenda #9

At 7:20 p.m. Mrs. Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Mr. Nafey and carried 8 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Corcoran  
District Clerk